

Chairman Brenner, thank you for allowing me to testify.

My name is Angela Abbatiello and I live in Toledo, Ohio. While I don't have children myself, I am strongly opposed to this bill as I believe it will harm Ohio's children.

I'm almost retirement age, so I remember when kids could really be bullied or attacked in school for coming out as gay or being suspected of being gay. And when I was in college and a young adult, I started to meet gay people who had been kicked out of their houses when they came out to their families. I still can't believe people would act so horribly toward their own children!!

But I understand that times have not completely changed in that respect, so it would be EXTREMELY IRRESPONSIBLE to force kids to come out as a matter of some kind of school policy. Will the schools accept liability for everything that happens to that student after they out them to their families--physical assault, abandonment, sex trafficking, overdose, suicide, etc?

The language is also so vague it seems like teachers could also get in trouble for just teaching current events to their students, or acknowledging that they themselves are gay. We're saying that you can legally be in a same-sex marriage in Ohio, but you can be prosecuted for talking about it at your workplace? That doesn't sound right.

I ask you to consider my testimony on this extremely destructive and hateful bill, and VOTE NO.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Angela Abbatiello